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For Immediate Release
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Westside Demolition is a Major Step in the Development of Tucson Origins Heritage Park

Crews hired by the City of Tucson will begin tearing down the former Citizens Auto Stage building, located west of Interstate 10 on Brickyard Lane, on Friday, December 9, to make way for the development of Tucson Origins Heritage Park and other cultural attractions. A celebration event beginning at 10 a.m. will include remarks from Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup and Ward 1 Council Member José Ibarra. Mayor Walkup will kick off the demolition by tearing the first piece of aluminum siding from the building.

Tucson Origins Heritage Park is Río Nuevo's signature cultural project, which is expected to be a cornerstone of Tucson's revitalized Downtown. It will feature the reconstructed San Agustín Mission Complex, including the chapel, convento and granary. Nearby, the new Arizona State Museum and Arizona Historical Society will provide additional cultural insight and educational opportunities.

"This exciting step in the development of Origins comes after more than two years of preparation and planning," said Río Nuevo Director Greg Shelko. "The former building occupants were relocated to an improved facility, and major environmental work (including asbestos abatement) was performed on the existing building to prepare it for demolition. In addition, archaeologists investigated the site's complex history and the City's Environmental Services Department stabilized two retired landfills in the area. So although for many people this will be the first visible sign of Origins' progress, it's really just the latest in a long series of carefully planned steps to bring this exciting project to fruition," said Shelko.

Río Nuevo is the comprehensive Downtown revitalization project funded by the State of Arizona, the City of Tucson, and private enterprise. Its goals are to create a vibrant experience in Downtown Tucson for citizens and visitors through the development of new attractions, shops, restaurants, office space and housing and to ultimately make Downtown Tucson into the "Heart of the City."